

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 11 and 13-25. Please amend claims 1, 6-7, 9-10, and 12. Please add new claims 26-52. The claims are as follows.

1. (Currently amended) A method for generating and maintaining [[N]] database instances in accordance with a template, said method comprising:

creating the template based on design information, said creating the template implemented by a template manager;

identifying N database instances upon said creating the template, each of the N instances not having been generated and having a status of Draft, said N at least 2;

storing the template in a template manager database, said storing the template implemented by the template manager;

generating the N instances based on the template and on control information for the N instances, said control information including configuration control information, said configuration control information identifying N locations corresponding to the N instances, said N at least 2; said generating the N instances implemented by the template manager, said generated N instances having a status of Created because said N instances have been generated;

storing the N instances in the template manager database, said storing the N instances implemented by the template manager; and

transmitting the N instances to the corresponding N locations, said transmitting the N instances implemented by the template manager;

refreshing M instances of the N instances based on update control information, said M

less than N, said refreshing the M instances implemented by the template manager, said refreshed M instances having a status of Refreshed because said M instances have been refreshed, leaving a remaining N-M instances of the N instances still having the status of Created;

transmitting the M refreshed instances to the corresponding M locations, said transmitting the M instances implemented by the template manager; and

generating a view, said generated view being a table, said generated view identifying the refreshed M instances as having the status of Refreshed and identifying the remaining N-M instances as having the status of Created.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, said control information further including administrative information.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, said administrative information being location dependent.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, said administrative information including administrator information.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, said control information comprising access control information, said access control information identifying at least one access control group for each instance of the N instances, wherein if a plurality of access control groups are associated with a given instance then each such access control group of the plurality of access control groups has an independent level of access control relating to the given instance.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, said method further comprising:

obtaining the design information, said obtaining implemented by an agent; and
transmitting the design information to the template manager, said transmitting the design information implemented by the agent.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, said method further comprising:

obtaining a portion of the control information, said obtaining implemented by an agent;
and
transmitting the portion of the control information to the template manager, said transmitting the portion of control information implemented by the agent.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, said transmitting the N instances comprising transmitting the N instances to the corresponding N locations over telephone lines or cable lines.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, said method further comprising:

refreshing the template based on update design information, said refreshing the template implemented by the template manager;

refreshing the ~~N~~ remaining N-M instances based on the refreshed template, said refreshing the ~~N~~ remaining N-M instances implemented by the template manager; and

transmitting the ~~N~~ refreshed remaining N-M ~~refreshed~~ instances to the corresponding ~~N~~ N-M locations, said transmitting the ~~N~~ refreshed remaining N-M ~~refreshed~~ instances implemented by the template manager.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, said method further comprising providing the update design information to the template manager, said providing the update design information implemented by an agent.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~11~~ 1, said method further comprising providing the update control information to the template manager, said providing the update control information implemented by an agent.

13-25. (Canceled)

26. (New) The method of claim 1, said view comprising a Status column that identifies the status of Refreshed for the refreshed M instances and the status of Created for the remaining N-M instances.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, said method further comprising identifying an additional database instance upon said creating the template, wherein during generating the view the additional instance has not been generated and has a status of Draft because the additional instance has been identified but has not yet been generated, said generated view identifying the additional instance as having the status of Draft, and wherein the Status column identifies the

status of Draft for the additional instance.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, said view further comprising a Date Last Drafted, Created or Refreshed column, wherein each entry in the Date Last Drafted, Created or Refreshed column identifies a last date at which the status of Draft, Created or Refreshed denoted in an associated entry in the Status column was respectively acquired by an associated instance of the N instances.

29. (New) The method of claim 26, said view further comprising an Instance Identifier column, wherein each entry in the Instance Identifier column identifies a unique instance of the N instances, and wherein each entry in the Status column is associated with a correspond entry in the Instance Identifier column.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, said view further comprising an Instance Server column, wherein each entry in the Instance Server column identifies a server at a location to which an associated instance in the Instance Identifier column has, or shall be, transmitted to the template manager.

31. (New) A computer system comprising a processor and a computer readable memory unit coupled to the processor, said memory unit containing software that when executed by the processor implement a method for generating and maintaining database instances in accordance with a template, said method comprising:

creating the template based on design information, said creating the template

implemented by a template manager;

identifying N database instances upon said creating the template, each of the N instances not having been generated and having a status of Draft, said N at least 2;

storing the template in a template manager database, said storing the template implemented by the template manager;

generating the N instances based on the template and on control information for the N instances, said control information including configuration control information, said configuration control information identifying N locations corresponding to the N instances, said generating the N instances implemented by the template manager, said generated N instances having a status of Created because said N instances have been generated;

storing the N instances in the template manager database, said storing the N instances implemented by the template manager;

transmitting the N instances to the corresponding N locations, said transmitting the N instances implemented by the template manager;

refreshing M instances of the N instances based on update control information, said M less than N, said refreshing the M instances implemented by the template manager, said refreshed M instances having a status of Refreshed because said M instances have been refreshed, leaving a remaining N-M instances of the N instances still having the status of Created;

transmitting the M refreshed instances to the corresponding M locations, said transmitting the M instances implemented by the template manager; and

generating a view, said generated view being a table, said generated view identifying the refreshed M instances as having the status of Refreshed and identifying the remaining N-M

instances as having the status of Created.

32. (New) The computer system of claim 31, said control information further including administrative information.

33. (New) The computer system of claim 32, said administrative information being location dependent.

34. (New) The computer system of claim 33, said administrative information including administrator information.

35. (New) The computer system of claim 31, said control information comprising access control information, said access control information identifying at least one access control group for each instance of the N instances, wherein if a plurality of access control groups are associated with a given instance then each such access control group of the plurality of access control groups has an independent level of access control relating to the given instance.

36. (New) The computer system of claim 31, said method further comprising:
obtaining the design information, said obtaining implemented by an agent; and
transmitting the design information to the template manager, said transmitting the design information implemented by the agent.

37. (New) The computer system of claim 31, said method further comprising:

obtaining a portion of the control information, said obtaining implemented by an agent;
and

transmitting the portion of the control information to the template manager, said
transmitting the portion of control information implemented by the agent.

38. (New) The computer system of claim 31, said transmitting the N instances comprising
transmitting the N instances to the corresponding N locations over telephone lines or cable lines.

39. (New) The computer system of claim 31, said method further comprising:

refreshing the template based on update design information, said refreshing the template
implemented by the template manager;

refreshing the remaining N-M instances based on the refreshed template, said refreshing
the remaining N-M instances implemented by the template manager; and

transmitting the refreshed remaining N-M instances to the corresponding N-M locations,
said transmitting the refreshed remaining N-M instances implemented by the template manager.

40. (New) The computer system of claim 39, said method further comprising providing the
update design information to the template manager, said providing the update design information
implemented by an agent.

41. (New) The computer system of claim 31, said method further comprising providing the

update control information to the template manager, said providing the update control information implemented by an agent.

42. (New) The computer system of claim 31, said view comprising a Status column that identifies the status of Refreshed for the refreshed M instances and the status of Created for the remaining N-M instances.

43. (New) The computer system of claim 42, said method further comprising identifying an additional database instance upon said creating the template, wherein during generating the view the additional instance has not been generated and has a status of Draft because the additional instance has been identified but has not yet been generated, said generated view identifying the additional instance as having the status of Draft, and wherein the Status column identifies the status of Draft for the additional instance.

44. (New) The computer system of claim 43, said view further comprising a Date Last Drafted, Created or Refreshed column, wherein each entry in the Date Last Drafted, Created or Refreshed column identifies a last date at which the status of Draft, Created or Refreshed denoted in an associated entry in the Status column was respectively acquired by an associated instance of the N instances.

45. (New) The computer system of claim 42, said view further comprising an Instance Identifier column, wherein each entry in the Instance Identifier column identifies a unique instance of the N

instances, and wherein each entry in the Status column is associated with a correspond entry in the Instance Identifier column.

46. (New) The computer system of claim 45, said view further comprising an Instance Server column, wherein each entry in the Instance Server column identifies a server at a location to which an associated instance in the Instance Identifier column has, or shall be, transmitted to the template manager.

47. (New) A computer program product, comprising a computer usable medium having a computer readable code embodied therein, said computer readable code comprising software adapted to implement a method for generating and maintaining database instances in accordance with a template, said method comprising:

- creating the template based on design information, said creating the template implemented by a template manager;

- identifying N database instances upon said creating the template, each of the N instances not having been generated and having a status of Draft, said N at least 2;

- storing the template in a template manager database, said storing the template implemented by the template manager;

- generating the N instances based on the template and on control information for the N instances, said control information including configuration control information, said configuration control information identifying N locations corresponding to the N instances, said generating the N instances implemented by the template manager, said generated N instances

having a status of Created because said N instances have been generated;

storing the N instances in the template manager database, said storing the N instances implemented by the template manager;

transmitting the N instances to the corresponding N locations, said transmitting the N instances implemented by the template manager;

refreshing M instances of the N instances based on update control information, said M less than N, said refreshing the M instances implemented by the template manager, said refreshed M instances having a status of Refreshed because said M instances have been refreshed, leaving a remaining N-M instances of the N instances still having the status of Created;

transmitting the M refreshed instances to the corresponding M locations, said transmitting the M instances implemented by the template manager; and

generating a view, said generated view being a table, said generated view identifying the refreshed M instances as having the status of Refreshed and identifying the remaining N-M instances as having the status of Created.

48. (New) The computer program product of claim 47, said view comprising a Status column that identifies the status of Refreshed for the refreshed M instances and the status of Created for the remaining N-M instances.

49. (New) The computer program product of claim 48, said method further comprising identifying an additional database instance upon said creating the template, wherein during generating the view the additional instance has not been generated and has a status of Draft

because the additional instance has been identified but has not yet been generated, said generated view identifying the additional instance as having the status of Draft, and wherein the Status column identifies the status of Draft for the additional instance.

50. (New) The computer program product of claim 47, said view further comprising a Date Last Drafted, Created or Refreshed column, wherein each entry in the Date Last Drafted, Created or Refreshed column identifies a last date at which the status of Draft, Created or Refreshed denoted in an associated entry in the Status column was respectively acquired by an associated instance of the N instances.

51. (New) The computer program product of claim 50, said view further comprising an Instance Identifier column, wherein each entry in the Instance Identifier column identifies a unique instance of the N instances, and wherein each entry in the Status column is associated with a correspond entry in the Instance Identifier column.

52. (New) The computer program product of claim 45, said view further comprising an Instance Server column, wherein each entry in the Instance Server column identifies a server at a location to which an associated instance in the Instance Identifier column has, or shall be, transmitted to the template manager.